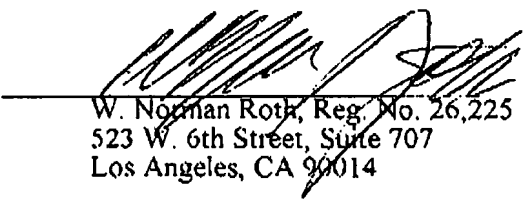


which has been amended consistent with the wording of claim 7 in its original version and as presently amended, to state that the band is flexible and that it extends from the ankle portion along the bottom and around the toe.

It is believed that the application is now in form for allowance and early action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



W. Norman Roth, Reg. No. 26,225
523 W. 6th Street, Suite 707
Los Angeles, CA 90014

(213) 688-1143
WNR/lir

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Specification Amendments - Marked up Copy

[0015] In the preferred embodiments depicted in the drawings, the side panels 50, 60, or the separate sections thereof, may be attached to each other and to ~~the~~ a flexible connecting band 70 which extends from the ankle portion along the bottom and around the toe by turning their adjoining edges inwardly and then affixing them together by stitching. Depending on the type of materials chosen for construction of the cover 10, other means of affixation may be more advantageous such as, for example, gluing or adhesive welding techniques. Similarly, the attachment means 40 such as the separate tapes of a zipper as depicted or hook and eye (VELCRO[®]) or other attachment means may be affixed by stitching or glue to the side panels 50, 60 as shown so that the spaced free edges 32, 34 which may easily be fastened together to enclose a hockey stick blade. Preferably, the non-structural toe reinforcement panel 28 is provided near the toe 24 to connect the side panels 50, 60 to the band 70 at that location so that the reinforcement panel 28 will reduce wear and damage to the cover 10 which otherwise may be expected when repeatedly inserting a hockey stick blade into the cover 10.